

Dear Colleagues,

Dr. Jackie Douge and myself, in collaboration with the Frederick County Parks and Recreation Division, The City of Frederick Parks and Recreation, and the Frederick County Health Department, would like to inform you and hopefully gain your support and involvement in a newly conceived concept and undertaking called "Docs in the Park.

Docs in the Park originated from discussions initiated by the Maryland AAP Chapter of the Children and Nature Task Force. The goal of the task force is to promote outdoor play and nature activities to our patients and their families to help improve both their physical and emotional well being. Docs in the Park programs are going on in Baltimore and the initiative being planned in Frederick County is one of the most developed programs to date, thanks to the dedicated work of our Parks and Recreation Departments.

There are two specific ways you can partner in this initiative. One way is to volunteer for one of our three Doc's in the Parks events planned for 2013. At these events you will be able to participate in activities designed for families that demonstrate and encourage healthy lifestyles. We envision a commitment of approximately 2 hours per event, depending on the number of participants.

The second way to partner is to simply promote and encourage our initiative and other opportunities throughout Frederick County that encourage outdoor activity and other healthy lifestyle attributes. We have developed specific Docs in the Park literature and a website to communicate our activities to your patients.

We are very excited about this initiative and your support and encouragement and feedback is integral to help this get off the ground and become successful. I think you will be impressed with both the quality of the promotional materials and the involvement and enthusiasm of our Parks and Recreation staff.

Please help support this wonderful new initiative. Your time and involvement could truly leave a positive and lasting impact to your patient's health and well being!

James Lee, MD Frederick County Pediatrics

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